


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

**FILED**  
AUG 18 2005  
  
CLERK

\*\*\*\*\*

SENGAROUNE SILAPHANHDETH,

Movant,

-vs-

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondent.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

CIV 05-4071  
CR 01-40029

MEMORANDUM OPINION  
AND ORDER

\*\*\*\*\*

Movant, Sengaroune Silaphanhdeh, filed a Motion to Vacate, Correct or Set Aside Sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. In addition, Movant filed a Motion for the Application on the Merits of Booker & Blakely Issue and the Inapplicability of Teague v. Lane, Doc. 2. The government filed a response to the motion as directed by the Court and requests that the motion be denied. Movant filed an objection to the government's response. For the reasons set forth below, the Motion will be denied.

**BACKGROUND**

Movant pled guilty to one count of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance and he was sentenced on September 5, 2001, to serve 126 months' imprisonment and five years' supervised release. *United States v. Silaphanhdeh*, CR 01-40029 (D.S.D.) (Judgment, Doc. 28). He did not file a direct appeal from that conviction or sentence. The present § 2255 Motion was filed on May 23, 2005.

Citing *United States v. Booker*, 125 S.Ct. 738 (2005), Movant contends that his sentence violates his Sixth Amendment rights because the amount of drugs used to calculate his sentencing range under the United States Sentencing Guidelines was not submitted to the jury or admitted by him. He asserts that despite the length of time since his conviction became final, an intervening

change in the law has occurred and his Motion should not be barred by the expiration of the one-year period of limitations in 28 U.S.C. § 2255.

In its response to the Motion, the government contends that the Motion should be dismissed on the following grounds: (1) the statute of limitations has expired and the Supreme Court has not made *Booker* applicable to cases on collateral review; (2) the claim is procedurally defaulted; (3) Petitioner waived his right to post-conviction relief to challenge the Court's entry of judgment and its sentence; and (4) *Booker* does not apply retroactively to cases on collateral review.

### DISCUSSION

A prisoner in custody pursuant to a federal conviction and sentence may move the court that imposed the sentence to vacate, set aside or correct the sentence:

[U]pon the ground that the sentence was imposed in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States, or that the court was without jurisdiction to impose such sentence, or that the sentence was in excess of the maximum authorized by law, or is otherwise subject to collateral attack.

28 U.S.C. § 2255. Congress established a one-year period of limitations for motions to vacate, set aside, or correct sentences. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2255. The limitation period runs from the latest of –

- (1) the date on which the judgment of conviction becomes final;
- (2) the date on which the impediment to making a motion created by governmental action in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States is removed, if the movant was prevented from making a motion by such governmental action;
- (3) the date on which the right asserted was initially recognized by the Supreme Court, if that right has been newly recognized by the Supreme Court and made retroactively applicable to cases on collateral review; or
- (4) the date on which the facts supporting the claim or claims could have been discovered through the exercise of due diligence.

*Id.* Movant's judgment of conviction became final in 2001 and he has not claimed an impediment to filing his motion by unlawful governmental action. The facts supporting his claim were known to him at the time of the sentencing hearing in 2001. Thus, the only subsection that could possibly apply to render the present Motion timely is subsection two, relating to newly recognized rights by the Supreme Court. Movant contends that the Supreme Court's decision in *Booker* is such a case.

The Supreme Court, however, has not made *Booker* retroactively applicable to cases on collateral review. The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals' held in *Never Misses a Shot v. United States*, 413 F.3d 781, 783 (8th Cir. 2005), that *Booker* "does not apply to criminal convictions that became final before the rule was announced, and thus does not benefit movants in collateral proceedings." Thus, Movant is not entitled to relief under *Booker* and his claims in the present Motion are barred by the one-year period of limitations in § 2255.

In light of the above discussion, the Court finds that Movant is not entitled to an evidentiary hearing. See *United States v. Schmitz*, 887 F.2d 843, 844 (8th Cir. 1989) (holding that an evidentiary hearing is not required "where the files and records of the case conclusively show that the petitioner is not entitled to relief, ... or where the allegations 'amount to no more than a bare contradiction of statements petitioner made when [he] pled guilty.'"); *Hill v. Lockhart*, 474 U.S. 52, 60 (1985) (affirming the district court's refusal to hold a hearing on § 2255 petitioner's ineffective assistance of counsel claim where he failed to allege the kind of prejudice necessary to satisfy the second half of the *Strickland v. Washington* test).

When the district court has denied a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, the movant may not appeal without a certificate of appealability. Such a certificate may issue "only if the applicant has made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." See 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c). A "substantial showing" under this section is a showing that "reasonable jurists would find the district court's assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong." *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000). In other words, a "substantial showing" is made if "a court could resolve the issues differently, or the issues deserve further proceedings." *Cox v. Norris*, 133 F.3d 565, 569 (8th Cir. 1997). Silaphanhdeh has not made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right. Accordingly,

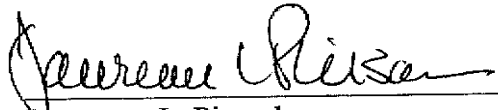
IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the Motion to Vacate, Set Aside, or Correct Sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255, Doc. 1, is denied.

2. That the Motion for the Application on the Merits of Booker & Blakely, Doc. 2, is denied.
3. That a Certificate of Appealability shall not issue on any of the issues raised in the § 2255 motion.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2005.

BY THE COURT:



Lawrence L. Piersol  
Chief Judge

ATTEST:  
JOSEPH HAAS, CLERK

BY:   
(SEAL) DEPUTY